

Entertainment

Artistic Ambassador performs for students

See Page 4

Photo Gallery

See Page 5

Feature Profile

Monarch receiver Brian Comer leaves

See Page 6

Valley Star

Volume 47, Issue No 26

Los Angeles Valley College

Van Nuys, California

February 9, 1995

News Notes

Counseling and Transfer Center:

Recruitment at CSUN is Feb. 15 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at CSUN Students need to bring completed application and \$55. Contact CSUN for details.

Counseling Department Tuesday Workshop Series:

Feb. 14, Financial Aid at Valley and After Transfer with Ms. Martha Perez.

Feb. 21, How To Write an Application Essay for a University with Mr. Patrick Hunter.

IMS Filmex Spring '95

Schedule: Wednesdays in Behavioral Science 101, Feb. 22, Shake speare's Hamlet starring Mel Gibson and Glenn Close.

March 1, The Rise to Power of Louis XIV starring Jean-Marie Patte and Raymond Jourdan.

Elementary Algebra Competency Test Schedule Feb. 15, 6 to 7 p.m. in CC116. No appointment necessary.

Ninth annual John Locher Memorial Award Competition:

is having an editorial cartoon contest. Submit entries to: Dick Locher Room 444, The Chicago Tribune 435 North Michigan Ave Chicago, IL 60611-4041. Deadline for entries is April 1, 1995.

Earth Science Lecture Series:

"The Northridge Earthquake," by Dr. Peter Weigard, chair, Geology Dept., CSUN, Th. 2/9 1:00 p.m. in MS 113.

CSUN: university representatives will be on campus Feb. 13, 10 to 1, by appointment, Transfer Center and Feb. 21, 10 to 1 on a drop-in basis in the Cafeteria.

Lee College, University of Judaism: will be on campus Feb. 22, from 10 to 11 and 1 to 2 by appt. in the Transfer Center and from 11 to 1 on a drop-in basis in Monarch Square.

Feb. 23, Music Recital Hall presents Andrzej Dutkiewicz, piano, music by Polish composers at 11 a.m.

Miscellaneous:

Disney is searching across the country for talented and enthusiastic musicians and singers. Live auditions in the Los Angeles area will be held on Feb. 18 and 19. For further information call (407) 345-5701 or (714) 490-7327.

A poetry and short story contest is being held. The first prize amount is \$300. The deadline for entries is March 15. For complete information write to Sagebrush-C11-32 P.O. Box 300805 Denver, CO. 80203.

Heavy rains damage campus

Rain causes fifty year old pine tree to collapse and Monarch Hall to leak

By S.L. SALAMONE
Valley Star Staff Writer

Trees on campus were inspected by the Maintenance and Gardening Departments after a 50 foot pine tree fell over during the heavy rains of Jan. The departments report that there is no danger of trees on campus falling down.

The tree, located between the Business Journalism Building and Bungalow 58 toppled over into Campus Drive at the same moment Charles Long, operations manager was driving by in a maintenance cart. Long said that just the very top of the tree crashed down onto the cart, "I thought it

was a branch, but then I realized the whole tree had fallen down."

On its way to the ground the tree crashed between two vehicles belonging to the Valley Sports Department, breaking the back window of one of them. The vehicles are used to transport teams to away games and were parked along Campus Drive. Maintenance reported the fallen tree to campus police who surrounded the area with yellow crime scene tape. Long said, "The tree was cut up and removed the next day."

The Gardening Department's Pat Patterson said, "As far as I know, the tree was here when the school opened, which would make it close

to 50 years old."

The heavy rains also delayed the restoring of Monarch Hall's roof. The auditorium was reported leaking and trash cans were placed under the leaking parts of the ceiling. Dave Ogne, building and grounds administrator said Monarch Hall was contracted to be re-roofed the first of this year, however, the rain delayed the operation.

"It's a 20 year old roof and we've had to post-pone it (re-roofing) three times, but the job will get done within the next month." The Campus Center is also due to receive a new roof at the end of this year Ogne said.



Pine tree that collapsed due to heavy rains S.L. SALAMONE/VALLEY STAR

Bookstore changes pricing policy

By SHAWN WYLIE
Valley Star Staff Writer

The campus bookstore manager, Claudette Burns, instructed staff to remove price and shelf tags from new and used books this semester because of lack of labor and time.

Burns said, "It wasn't anything deliberate. The prices were changing so fast, we just couldn't keep up."

Student Christopher James said, "I want an explanation. I just want to know why there are no prices."

Mary Ann Breckell, Vice President of Administrative Services,

is in charge of overseeing the entire operations and staff of the bookstore.

Breckell said, "There should be a price on everything and I don't know why there isn't. But I'm looking into it now."

Student Hezy Umoh said, "It's not fair. The prices are high and then there's no price before pick the book. We still have to wait in line for half an hour. The list has been here for three years."

Burns said, "Every semester publishers raise prices." This generates a price list "30 to 40 pages long. It takes a lot of time to put the price on each book."

"We saved a step that was very labor intensive," Burns said.

Breckell said, "The Los Angeles Community College Board of Trustees raises the prices of books. They decide, after the publisher sets a price, how much the college will sell it for."

"The profit from the sale of the book goes back into the bookstore. It's not really a profit though, the money is used to pay for labor and running the bookstore," said Breckell.

Burns said, "There was no real viable solution. I realize this is a problem. We're trying to find a solution for the fall."

Campus costs rise while enrollment goes down

By SHAWN BUSH
Valley Star Staff Writer

15,541 students were attending classes this time last year. Current enrollment stands at 15,290. This figure is down about one percent. West College and Harbor College are down about eight or nine percent.

"I have students dropping every day," Billy Reed, associate dean of admissions and records said. As the second largest campus among the nine colleges in the Los Angeles Community College District, Valley enrollment is down from Spring of 1994.

While it is difficult to determine the reasons for falling enrollment Fausto Campobianco from the District office said, "Proposition 187 is certainly one of the reasons. People are simply afraid to come to school. It is hard to anticipate what the effects will be until Proposition 187 is resolved."

Reed said, "I do not think it is a problem. I don't know how many

students are not here because of 187 but I think media coverage has helped spread the word that schools are business as usual. Students feel secure."

Campobianco said, "Usually when enrollment is down it is because the economy is stabilizing and industries are offering jobs. When the economy is down, enrollment tends to go up with people trying to get training in search of other job possibilities."

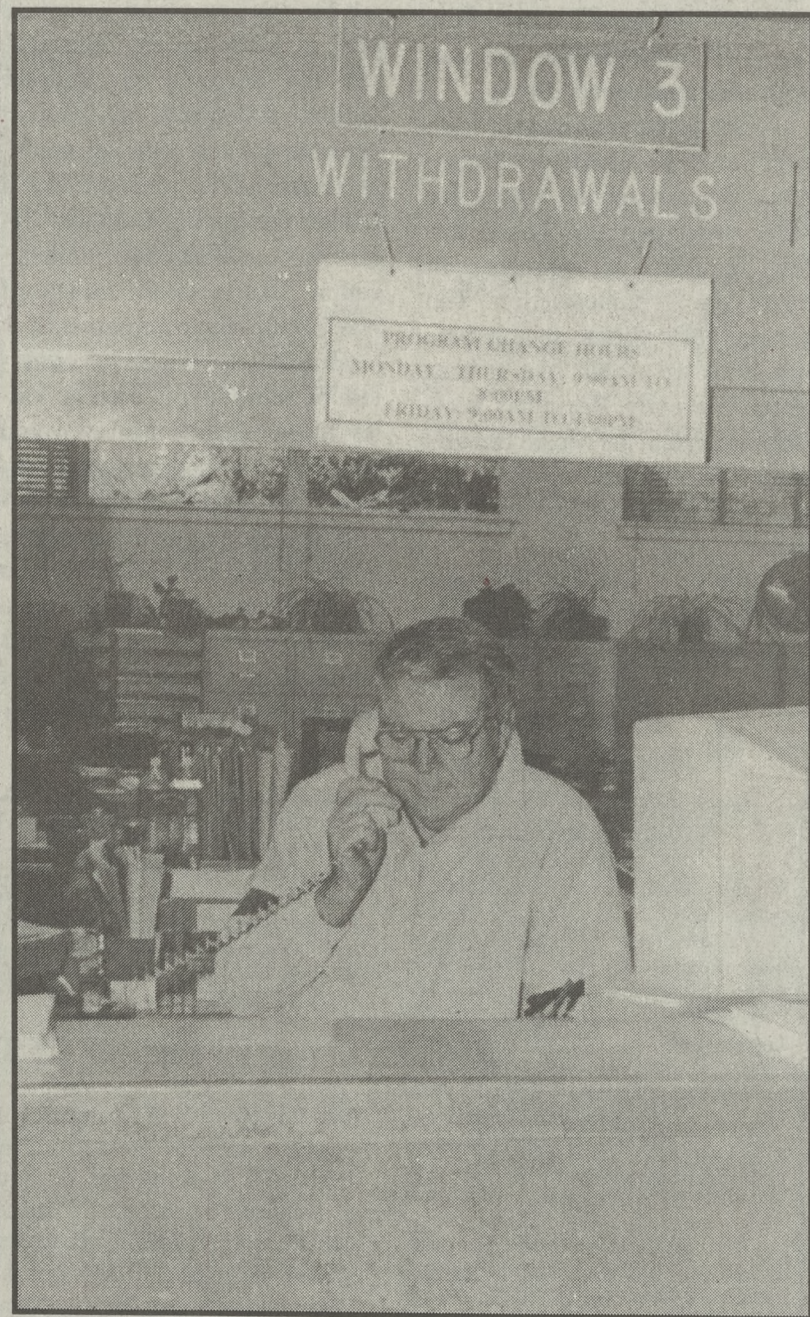
Reed said, "Nobody really knows. It is all speculation. Some say the economy, the earthquake, the recent rains. I have students calling every day with these excuses."

"Cost is the hottest issue cited when enrollment is down," Campobianco said. Governor Pete Wilson has proposed a 15 percent increase in enrollment fees as part of his budget package. If the Governor's proposed increase is implemented, fees for the average full time student will have increased 350 percent since 1990 to 1991.

Will enrollment drop if the fees increase? "No question, from day one. With the cost of living rising and students trying to pay for classes, books and supplies, the pressure can often prove to be too much, if you have ever been there. You know it is hard," Reed said.

The California Student Association of Community Colleges said, "As fees continue to rise, hundreds of thousands of students have been forced to take fewer courses or drop out of college altogether. Higher fees are the number one barrier to educational opportunities in this state." The association also said students are taking longer to graduate because they are financially forced to attend fewer classes.

Campobianco said, "Enrollment has been slipping steadily statewide over the last three or four years. Because of Valley's size, the campus has not lost that much, which says something about the determination to get an education in search for a better job."



Ed Ryan advising a student by phone

DORABOGHOSIAN/VALLEY STAR

Campus bookstore supplies frustration for students not prices

By DAVID HELLESKOV
Managing Editor

Traffic of people scurrying for their books is rampant in Valley's bookstore. After standing, waiting and stomping their feet in anticipation to enter this sideshow circus, students find the books required for particular classes have not come in and there are no price tags on the books.

An individual will instinctively think the item is free and probably ask for a straight answer. When will the desired book arrive? How much will it cost? I have encountered nothing short of static, push-

ness and irritability from bookstore employees in this situation. Students need their textbooks and study guides by the semester's second or third week. On past experiences, one book was not available until the seventh week, nearly halfway through the semester.

The red tape with buying books and supplies and the fate of a certain book being available by the roll of a dice or a crapshot seems to be another blockade in campus life at Valley. I will not stand for a leveling of student pride by walking into this bookstore, not knowing if the books are there and what the prices are.

Students support JTPA opportunities

"I strongly recommend to any student who is looking for in depth training to join the JTPA program."

Jo-ana D'Balcazar, student

By JO-ANA D'BALCAZAR
Valley Star Staff Writer

The Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA) is a program that provides eligible students employment opportunities and help them pay for their college tuition and books.

I enjoy the program because it has helped me in different ways, such as career counseling, goal setting, interviewing, motivational skills, computer training, job advisement, leadership skills, team work concepts, time management, and much more.

I truly believe the concept is effective because it has worked not only for me but for other peers as well. I strongly recommend to any student who is looking for in depth training to join the JTPA program.

I remember the first day I joined the JTPA. I was reluctant, I doubted its effectiveness, and to say the truth, I only joined to get my books. As weeks passed by, I changed my mind and started taking advantage of the lectures and applying them in my life. Believe me, it has been a great professional asset!

Most of all, I have made new friends: Karly Rothenberg, my goal partner; Dorothy Owens, the funniest one; Arthur Zimmerman, Lilian Leon, Landa MacDonald, Marianna Mihovic and Jodi Eisner. The JTPA has become a big family with loving parents (Lenny/Eva) supporting us 100 percent. They really are interested in going out of their way to help us accomplish our goals by supervising us, making sure that we are

receiving a high level education, and by guiding us to obtain successful job placement.

One of the good points of JTPA is that during our meetings we share our goals and problems, and encourage each other to keep going, without looking back.

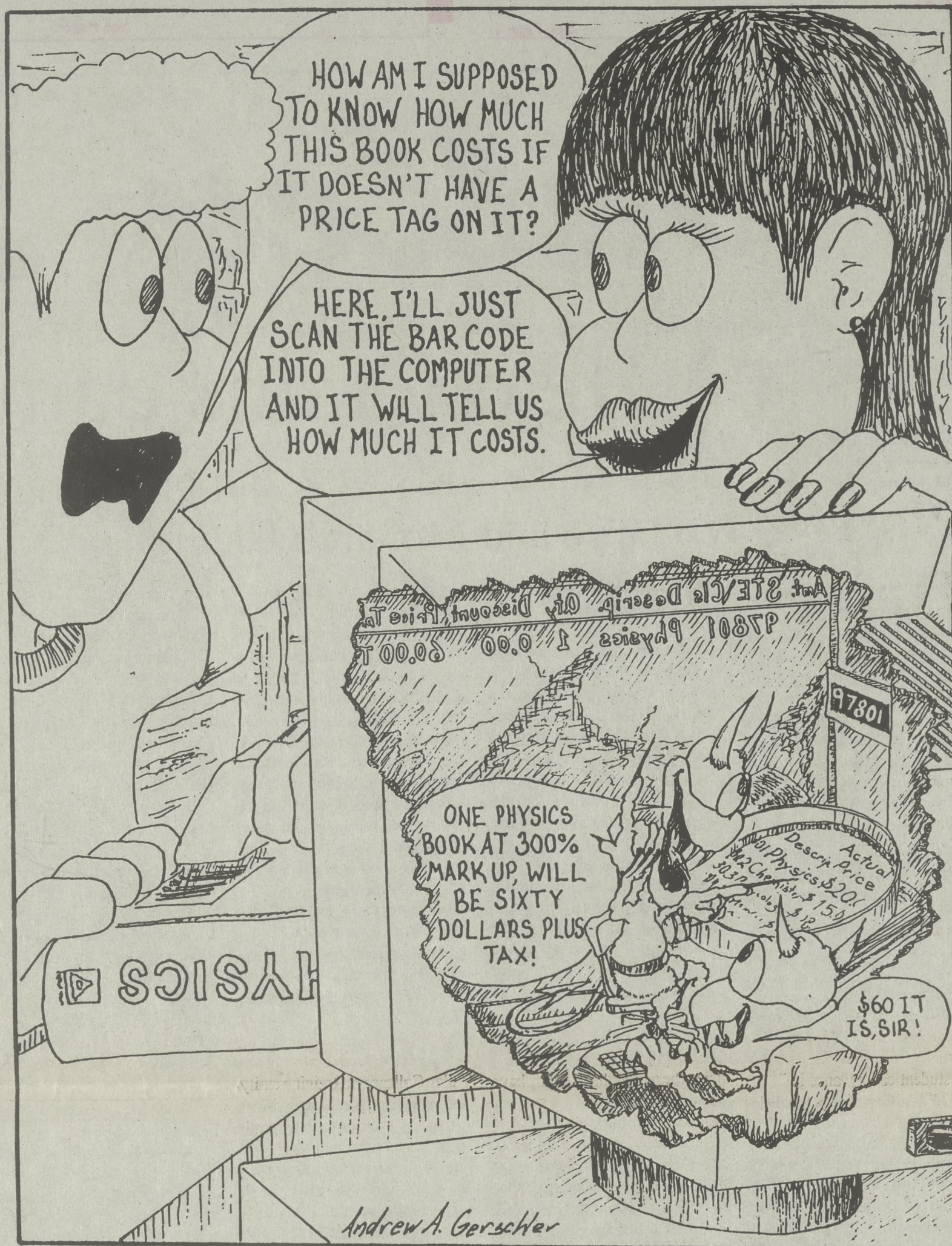
I asked Lenny Ciufo, the JTPA Director, why does he think the program is advantageous? "JTPA offers individuals the opportunity to get training that they otherwise could not either afford or have time for, and to remove any barriers that may exist on the road back to the work force," he said.

It feels so good when you go to their office looking for help, and see their sincere goodwill in assisting you. I personally feel great, and definitely all of them play an important role in my life, especially Eva Bitar and Martha Perez, who have been very objective and precise with their advice.

As Eva Bitar, Assistant Director, says, "Students have a choice to concentrate on retraining and not worry about having to make money in the process. They receive training and motivational courses that teach them real work situations."

In my opinion, JTPA is an outstanding program and I applaud their efforts. My congratulations to all of them, Lenny Ciufo, Eva Bitar, Neil Roberts, Martha Perez, Lucy Agazarian, Jodi Eisner and JTPA instructors Jim McJunkin, John Beck, and William Edler. Keep the good work, you are great!!!!

JTPA is located in Bungalows 48 and 49.



Letters to the Editor

To the Editor,

This Spring semester calls for congratulations. New and continuing students will discover new advantages. They are a sign of the increasing maturity of Valley College.

Under the early guidance of K. Mahoney, our health station is now on solid ground. The golden rule is students use it more. An independent fund has been established for our student government for Student Advocacy. If we do not speak up for ourselves, it is not likely anybody else will.

The relationship of the campus police under the guidance of Captain Traber and officer Mike Habitch continues on the finest level: To serve and protect.

One important provision is missing and should be implemented quickly. It concerns the Star, our student newspaper. The Star is the voice of the students. Its staff has never faltered in being independent. It continues to serve the students weekly. The Star is

positively one of the most important institutions on our campus. Forthright, courageous and balanced, it is part of our pride.

However, its funding should become part of the new maturity. The staff has the talent for expanding the paper. UCLA publishes daily. CSUN mails a copy to the home of every student. We can approach those goals slowly.

A one dollar contribution from every student would be a beginning. We can set the course for other community colleges to follow. Wouldn't we appreciate an entire page for student letters? The campus attracts many famous personalities we would like to hear about. Recently Raymond Scott was enrolled in the Music Department. No band leader, years ago, was more famous. There are many more.

We have much to be proud about. Let us support a greater maturity.

Bill Fury,

Fitness Center Student.

To the Editor,

In the last issue of the Valley Star I wrote a letter concerning the change in the Nursing Program from a point system of selection to that of a lottery. I was pleased to see the staff was kind enough to print it. I was equally appalled to see the cartoon by Andrew Gerschler alongside my letter. It depicted a future nursing graduate from LAVC dressed like a punker and giving a patient hydrochloric acid instead of his medication. This is not the message I was attempting to communicate!

Regardless of whichever system of admission is used at Valley, the nursing department would never turn out incompetent graduates. The staff and clinical instructors are too qualified, ethical and dedicated to ever allow that to occur. Furthermore, to become a working nurse, he or she must complete an intense two years of training and pass the extremely

difficult nursing board exam.

To reiterate the point that I was trying to make: I am simply opposed to the lottery system for two reasons and two reasons only. The first is that I think switching from the point system to that of the lottery is unfair to the hard-working students who were subjected to the system change without the benefit of sufficient notice. Secondly, I feel outsiders may think of the school as less prestigious regardless of our future output.

It is for these reasons I oppose the lottery. For those of you who understandably received the wrong impression, I humbly apologize for the miscommunication. Obviously, I should have been more specific and chosen my words much more carefully. I am proud to be a student of nursing here at Valley and look forward to the semesters to come.

Respectfully,
Kelley McBride,
Nursing Student.

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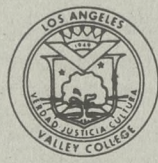
Published each Thursday throughout the school year by students of the Journalism and Photography classes using computers and Aldus Pagemaker.



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Represented by CASS
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✪ LETTERS ✪ LETTERS ✪ LETTERS ✪

The Valley Star will receive and, if possible, publish letters from its readers. The Star reserves the right to condense all letters for space considerations. Submitted letters should be limited to 350 words. Letters are subject to editing if they are obscene, libelous, or make ra-

cial, ethnic, religious, sexist, or sexually oriented denigrations. Letter must be signed and include student's ID number. Letters may be dropped at the Valley Star Bungalow 25, by Monday morning for the following Thursday.



Marth Perez, JTPA counselor gives an orientation of Valley facilities

ALEX SZUCH/VALLEY STAR

Plan for the future with Job Training Partnership Act

By LISA LEWENBERG
Valley Star Staff Writer

When nine community colleges joined together to share one grant, they gave birth to the Job Training Partnership Act JTPA. This federally funded program offered at Valley began in spring 1994. Presently, over 100 students are enrolled.

The idea originated with Lennie Ciufu the JTPA director who has over 20 years experience teaching at Valley in the Business Department.

Ciufu said, "Anybody can say, 'We'll get you a job' and then get you one at McDonalds but we're working on building careers that the student can advance in."

JTPA offers a plan for dislocated workers to acquire new skills and reenter the job market. The program is divided into two groups city and county participants. Eva Bitar, assistant director said, "First it offers people who have been laid off the opportunity to upgrade their skills and encourages them to stay in California. Second it offers people who are on welfare especially single mothers an alterna-

tive."

The alternative is fast paced programs targeting practical skills. "The goal is to obtain a job that will pay enough to have some money leftover after paying for child care and other expenses," Bitar said.

The training program can take up to one year. Child care is provided, as well as counseling, books and registration fees.

Students need 240 hours of training. A caseworker then meets with them to assist in job placement. Bitar said, "JTPA has spent much time researching jobs that are in demand here in California and will pay well so that the participant can sustain a higher quality of life utilizing the new skills that they have acquired."

Sandy Friedman, a JTPA student who began the program in November 1994 worked as an Industrial Engineer Specialist at Litton Guidance and Control in Woodland Hills for 28 years. He was laid off due to downsizing and consolidation. Friedman said, "The JTPA program is providing me with a rare opportunity to pursue new avenues."

Friedman said about Neil Roberts, a counselor at JTPA, "He was very enthusiastic and concerned about tailoring a program to my individual needs and interests." In March, Friedman will begin a 20 week course which will earn him recognition as a Microsoft Certified Product Specialist. Upon commencement, he plans to pursue independent consulting.

Some of the new programs JTPA will be beginning in February and March are, Sales Training, Applied Consumer Electronics, Medical Billing, Office Automation and Microsoft Certified Product Specialist.

Ciufu has a vision "I would like to recruit businesses to utilize Valley College as a training entity that will lead to a career. Most companies need to train employees when they are hired for a job regardless of their background. One of JTPA's goals is to work with companies and obtain their training program. JTPA will then train the student in advance so that they will be able to begin their job with the knowledge they need to be successful, thus saving the company time and money."

Acting guide promoted to Dean of Student Services

By DAVID BALDWIN
Valley Star Staff Writer

Sam Mayo is the new Dean of Student Services. Mayo is in charge of all student services on campus such as Admissions, Records, Associated Student Union, Financial Aid, Child Development Center, and Disabled Students Services.

April 9, 1994 Mayo was promoted to acting Dean of Student Services and on Jan. 1, 1995 he was promoted to Dean of Student Services.

"I am happy at my new position. It lets me talk to students at Valley College and help them with their problems," Mayo said.

Mayo has been here for 30 years in such positions as Associate Dean of admissions, Dean of Academic Affairs, and Sexual Harrassment compliance Officer.

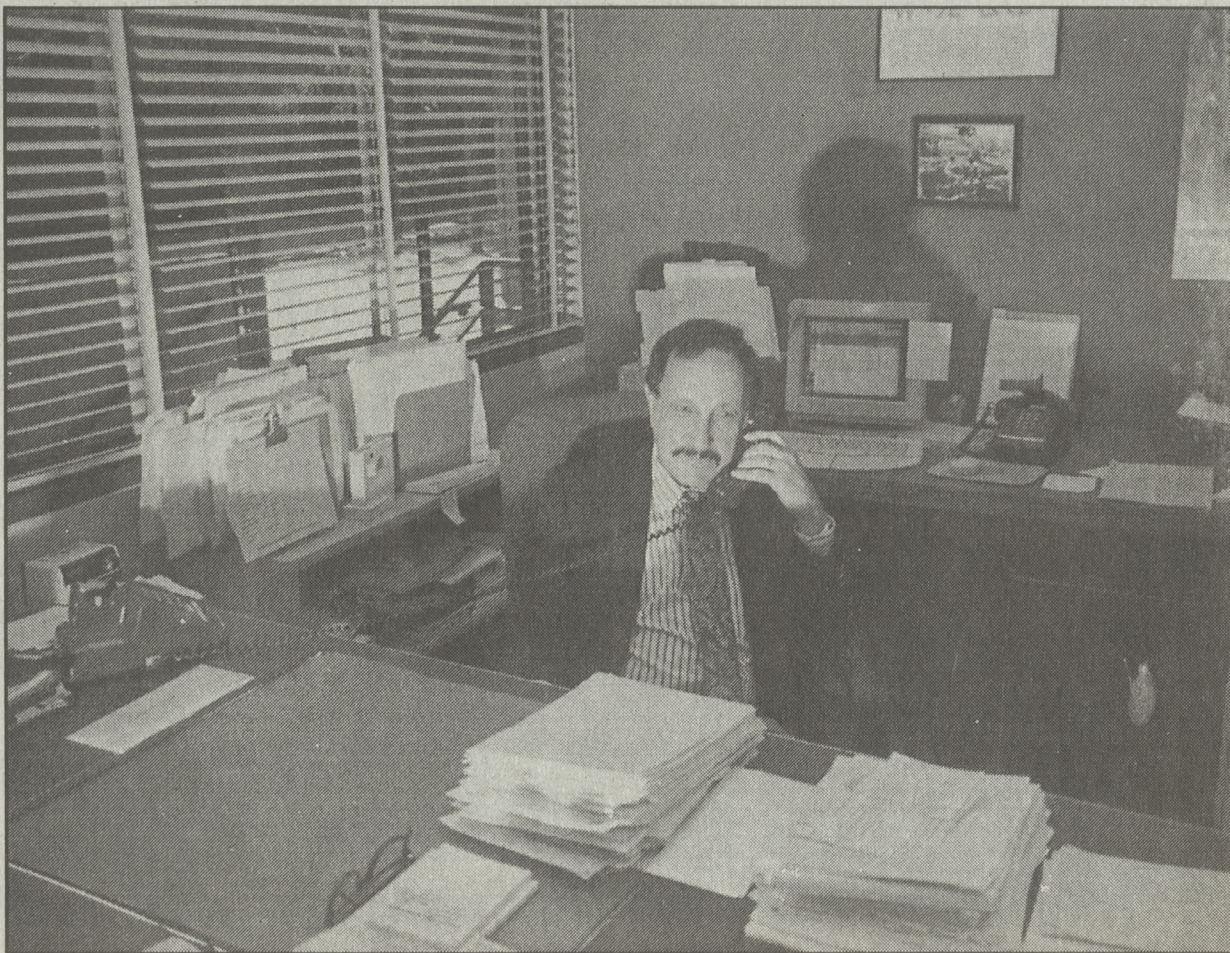
"I have enjoyed every day I have been here and I know that I will enjoy the rest of the time I am here," Mayo said.

"I accepted this job because I really enjoy working with the students at Valley College and I miss

being a teacher because I got to work with the students and that is why I excepted to be Dean of Student Affairs," Mayo said.

"I wrote and published three books and did 106 television shows which I hosted in Mexico which are still being shown," Mayo said.

There was no ceremony for Mayo when he got promoted but Mayo said, "I believe that ceremonies are a big part of life. When I graduated from high school I did not go to the graduation ceremony and I look back trying to find myself."



Sam Mayo, new dean of student services talking on the phone.

DAVID BALDWIN/VALLEY STAR

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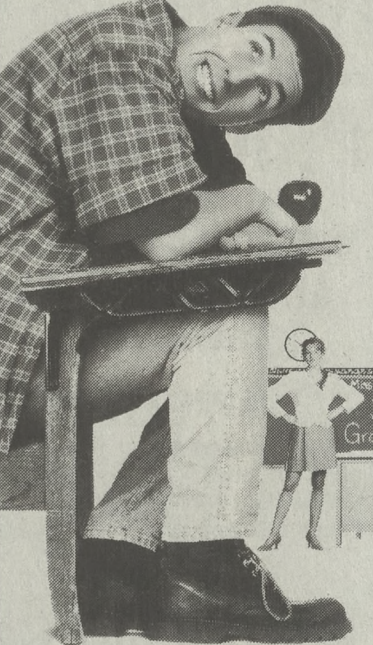
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Jason Vieaux, artistic ambassador performed at the first campus concert.

VALLEY STAR FILE PHOTO

"Before Sunrise" lights up big screen

By LAURA DENIS
Editor-in-Chief

"Before Sunrise" is a refreshing romantic comedy from director Richard Linklater starring Ethan Hawke as a young American and Julie Delpy as a French graduate student. After an encounter on the Eurail, Jesse (Hawke) convinces Celine (Delpy) to join him for his last 14 hours in Europe for a tour of Vienna.

What follows in the next two hours of the film is witty, provocative conversation between two people. They roam the city and

discuss everything from relationships to death to cable television.

The two characters of the film were easy to relate to. Celine is a very smart and strong willed woman. Jesse is also very bright and loves to discuss world issues.

Linklater said, "What I'm aiming for in 'Before Sunrise' is something seemingly unrehearsed and very real." Linklater succeeds in this endeavor. What the film lacks in action, nudity and violence it makes up for in intelligence. Linklater said, "At first there is infatuation but by the end of the movie there is a much deeper con-

nection than that. You run the gamut of emotions."

Hawke said, "The best movies are the ones you walk out of interested in yourself, not the actors on the screen. 'Before Sunrise' is that sort of unique movie." During the film I found myself thinking about what the two were discussing and comparing the way Jesse and Celine responded to each other to the way in which I respond to my companions. "Before Sunrise" was a very enjoyable film. It was nice to be able to watch two people interact with each other and forget about my problems for a while.

Artistic Ambassador plays at Valley

By REBECCA CAMARENA
Entertainment Editor

The Campus Concert series presented classical guitarist and United States Artistic Ambassador Jason Vieaux on Sunday, January 29. This was Vieaux's second performance, since completing a successful 53 city solo recital tour of universities and guitar societies in the United States and France. This came as a result of being awarded first prize at the prestigious 1992 Guitar Foundation of America International Competition held in New Orleans.

According to Robert Mayeur, Guitar Instructor and tour manager for the GFA, "The goal of the GFA is to bring American classical music to regents that have not always been exposed to it. Several of these performances have been broadcast on radio stations throughout the country."

Soundboard Magazine and Buffalo News have claimed that 21 year old Vieaux is a fresh and exciting young guitarist whose performances have been described as "positively heart-lifting," "close to perfection" and possessing "sensitivity that thrills listeners."

Vieaux's performance was flawless as he entertained the audience that filled the concert room with songs from the 19th and 20th century from composers James McGuire, Ian Krouse, Agustin Mangore and one in particular from Jose Merlin. This composition sounded like it was written many centuries ago but it was actually written in 1992 for the GFA International Competition and is typical of Argentinian folk

music. He received a standing ovation at the end of the performance and came back to play one more piece.

Vieaux was chosen as the Artistic Ambassador for the United States for 1995, which means he will perform for the United States embassies in India, Nepal and Thailand. He has released a debut recording of solo works by Bach, Ponce, Regondi, Brouwer and Morel and is currently working on his second release.

Before the performance guitar students were treated to a demonstration by Vieaux and they were able to discuss with him their problems they were having. "Besides performing, this is what I have always wanted to do and I feel comfortable with teaching. However, younger students should be encouraged to develop, and get a basic understanding of music and be able to enjoy it without making it a chore. Music is much more than just weekly lessons and whether or not one will make it as a professional. It can be overwhelming if not put into its proper perspective," said Vieaux.

Vieaux turned professional a year ago but is currently a student at the Cleveland Institute of Music in Cleveland, Ohio under the guidance of instructor John Holmquist. "Although Holmquist does not accompany me on these recitals he has given me a lot of guidance through last four years and I consider him a great guy," said Vieaux. He plans to receive a Bachelor of Arts degree in music this year.

After winning the GFA competition he has since made his debut with the Cleveland Orchestra, per-

forming the Rodrigo Concierto de Aranjuez under Jahja Ling. Since that time he has been scheduled for recitals around the United States. Two upcoming recitals will be at the Cleveland Institute at the University of Texas at Austin and at the Buffalo, New York Guitar Society.

Vieaux grew up in Buffalo, New York with his parents, brother and sister. He started taking private lessons at the age of 12 when he made the decision to pursue guitar over soccer. He states that he was never involved in school music programs and realizes he probably had to sacrifice some things but his parents were always supportive. According to Vieaux he is the only person in his family and extended family who has studied guitar. As a child he loved to listen to music when he was eight or nine and liked the Beatles but it was not until his private lessons that he became interested in classical music.

According to Vieaux his main influence today is Julien Breen who has a unique approach to the way a piece should play.

When asked about what he hoped to achieve in 10 years his response was that he was not after fame and fortune but rather being able to support himself as long as he could grow emotionally. For now he wants to make single recordings as well as with other musicians and travel on concert tours. He felt that part of the growth toward this goal was the experience he had doing three months of hard touring after winning the GFA and it was an affirmation that this is truly what he would like to be doing.

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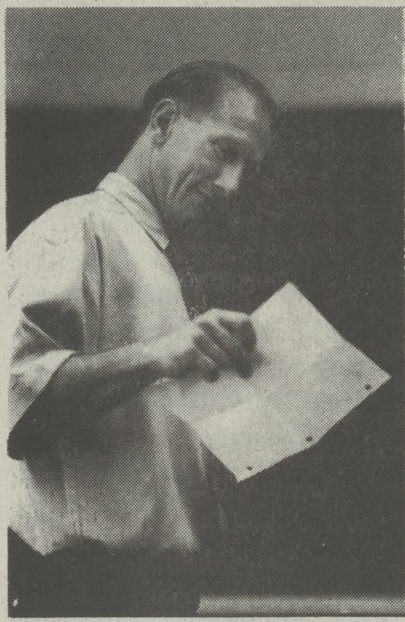
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If one was to have asked of Vincent Nicoletti two years ago what he might be doing today, his guesses would probably not have included his current position as an English teacher at Joseph LeConte Middle School in Hollywood.

His earliest experience as a teacher was in Thailand approximately 12 years ago when he taught English briefly while on an extended vacation.

However, it wasn't until the fall of 1993 that he considered teaching full time in the LAUSD educational system. Coming to Los Angeles Valley College with that goal in mind, he enrolled in several English and journalism classes so that he could satisfy the LAUSD's secondary English instructor requirements.

"Other students may have been better academically," says LAVC English Department Chair Marvin Zuckerman, "but his participation, enthusiasm and interest in the subject matter really made him stand out. He has a wonderful attitude and is very eager to learn."

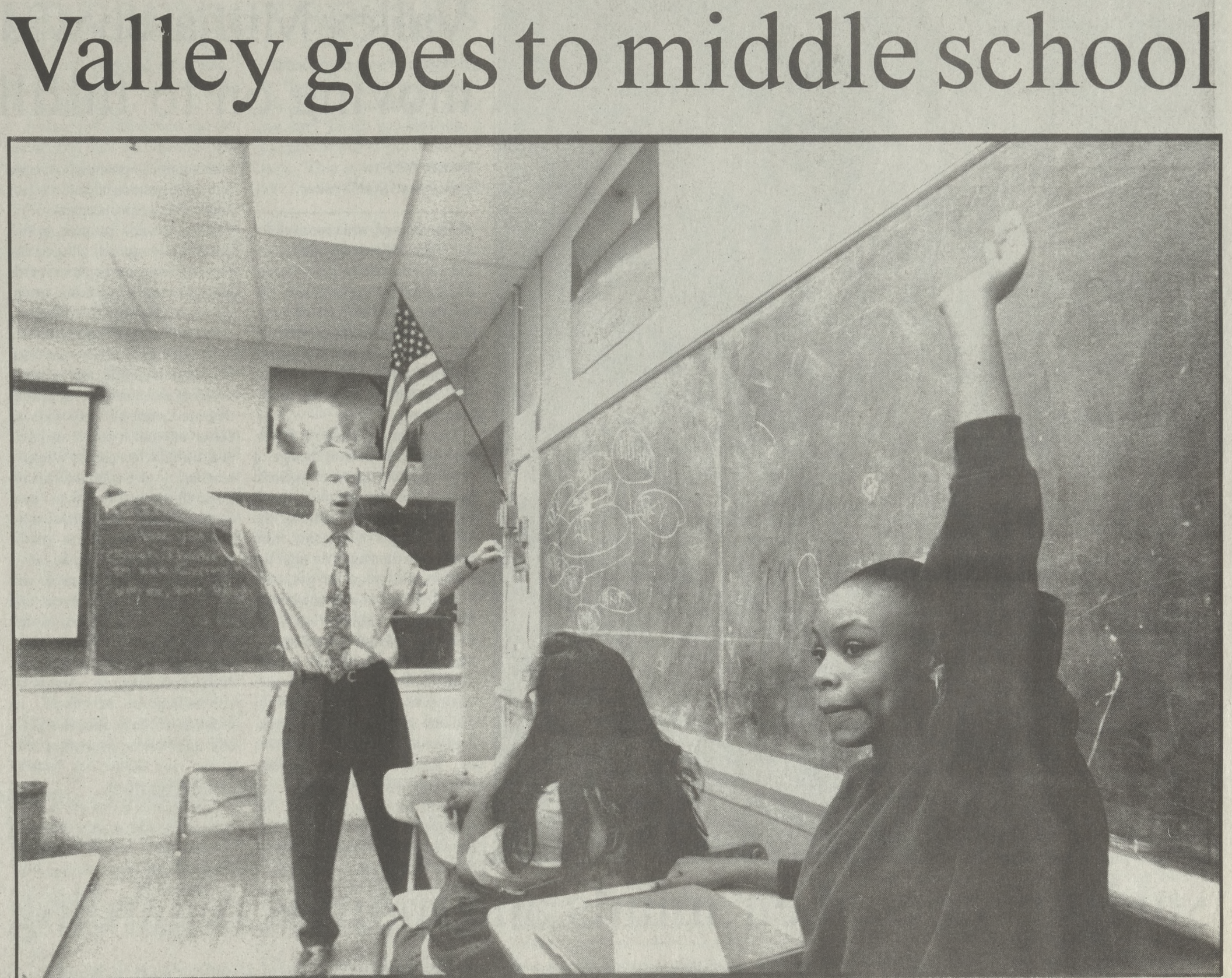
Knowing that Nicoletti wanted to teach, Zuckerman recommended him as a tutor within LAVC's English program where, according to Zuckerman, he did very well.

Nicoletti finished the Spring 1994 term, received his emergency teaching credentials and had a job teaching English at LeConte Middle School within a period of about two months. He had offers from other schools in the area, but was particularly drawn to LeConte because of its International Humanities Magnet to which he felt he could contribute.

Fellow faculty member and a self-described "grizzled, burned-out veteran teacher of over 20 years," Marc Pollard says that Nicoletti's job "is the most stressful in the world," but that he is doing a great job and will continue to get better.

"He's not too idealistic but he's fresh and full of energy," says Pollard. "Plus, he has a connection with the kids while maintaining a certain detachment, which is good."

Photos and text by
Michael Oehler



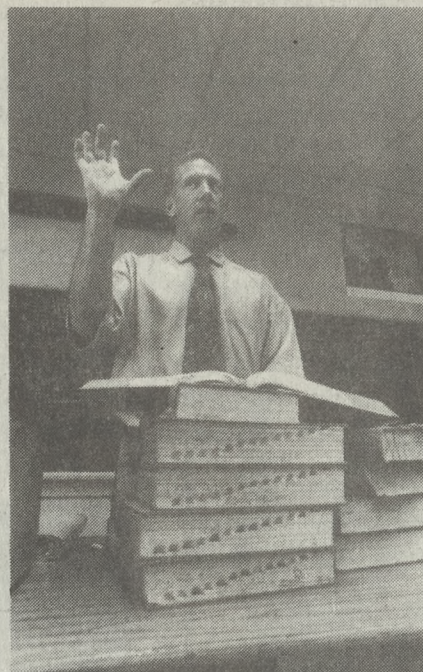
Vincent Nicoletti is a very energetic and animated character in the classroom. Every student that spoke of him agreed that he had a good sense of humor. One girl

says he makes noises that make her laugh and yet another said his face looks funny laughs. "To be honest, maintaining a straight face can be difficult at

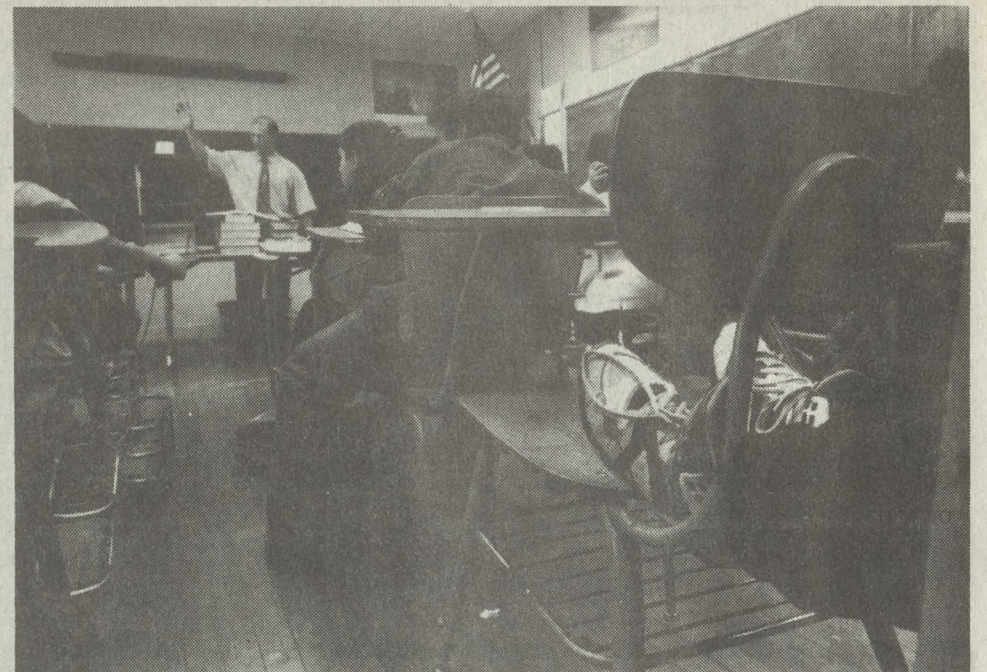
times," said Nicoletti, "but it's crucial in matters of control and discipline. But being the fun loving, good-natured guy that I am, I refuse to stifle myself."



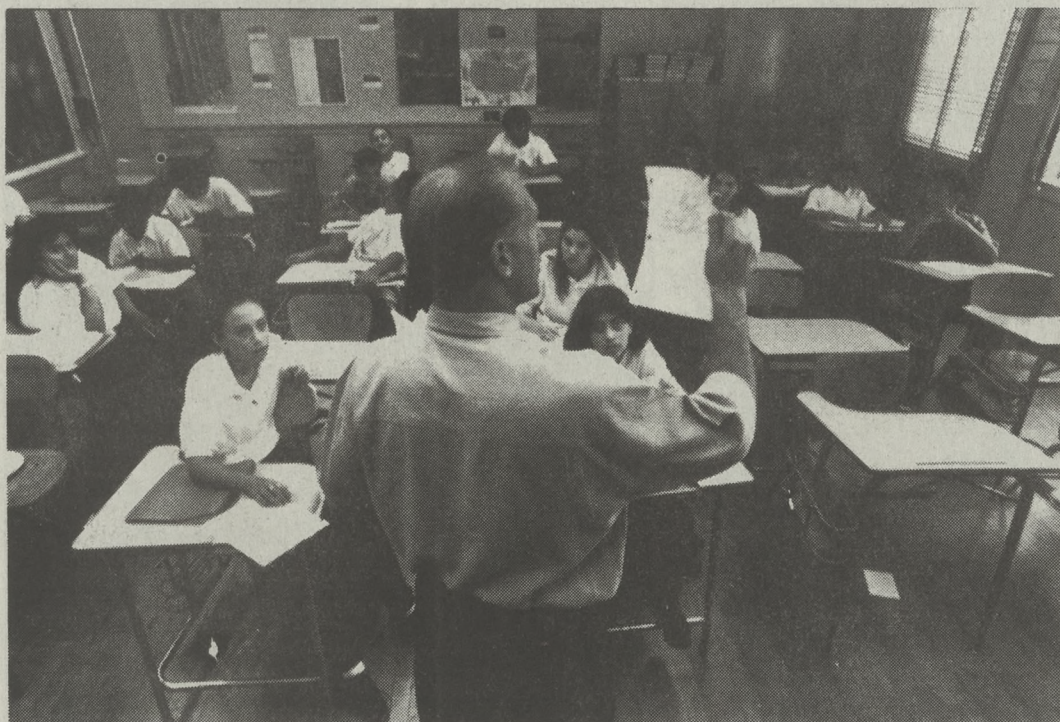
His class is the only one we have fun in. He does not hollar or scream at us. If we do something, he will just make a joke about it.



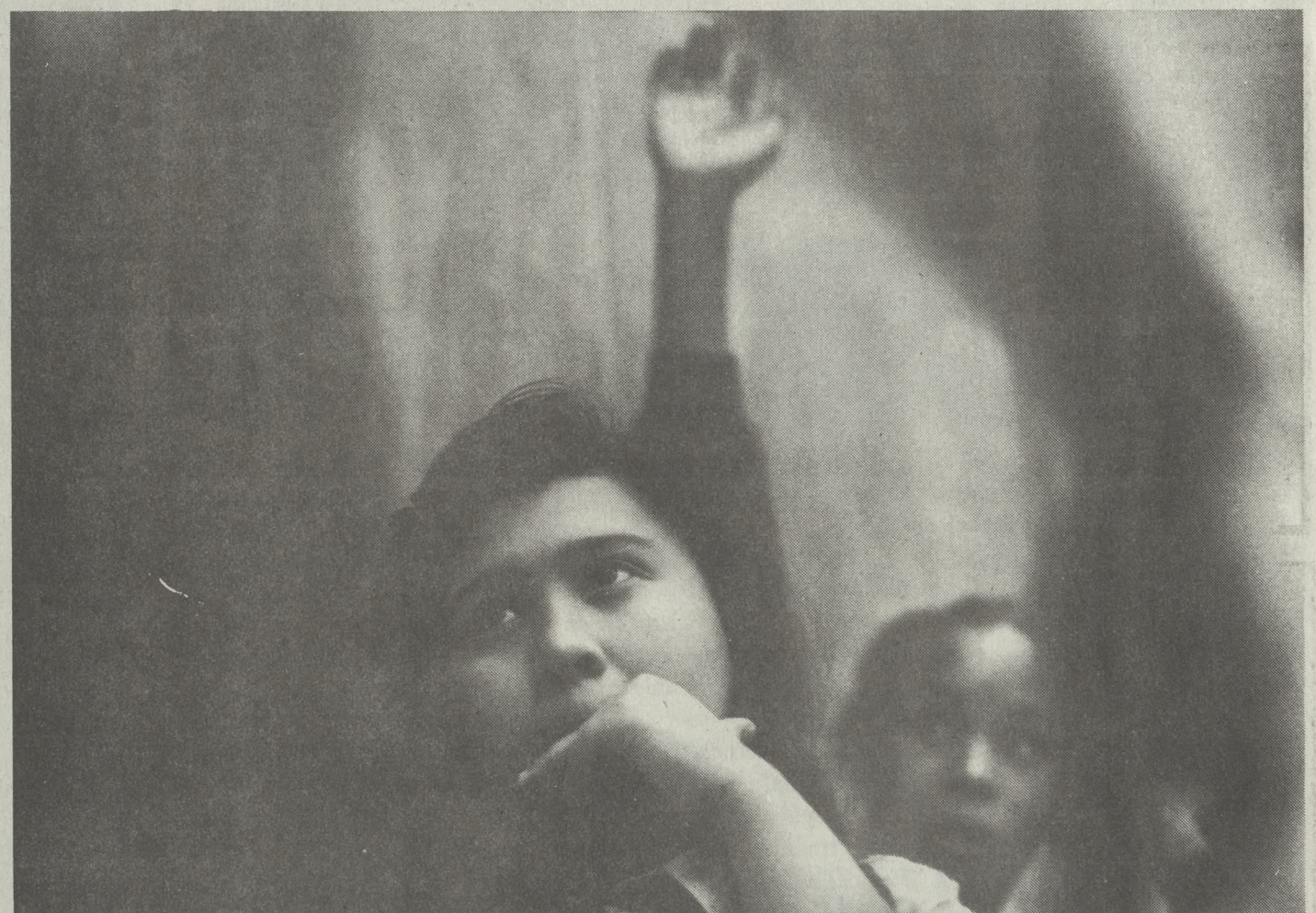
"He lent me \$.25 for the student store," said student Susy Lemus. "But he gave more to Jessica Gavidia," she further complained. Tokeisha Warren, another



of Nicoletti's students said, "He's a school man, always telling us to get to class. He needs to get out more and leave us alone."



"He was in the right place at the right time," says OffTrack Coordinator Marc Pollard. "He has a lot of audacity and a lot of gall...tell him I said that."

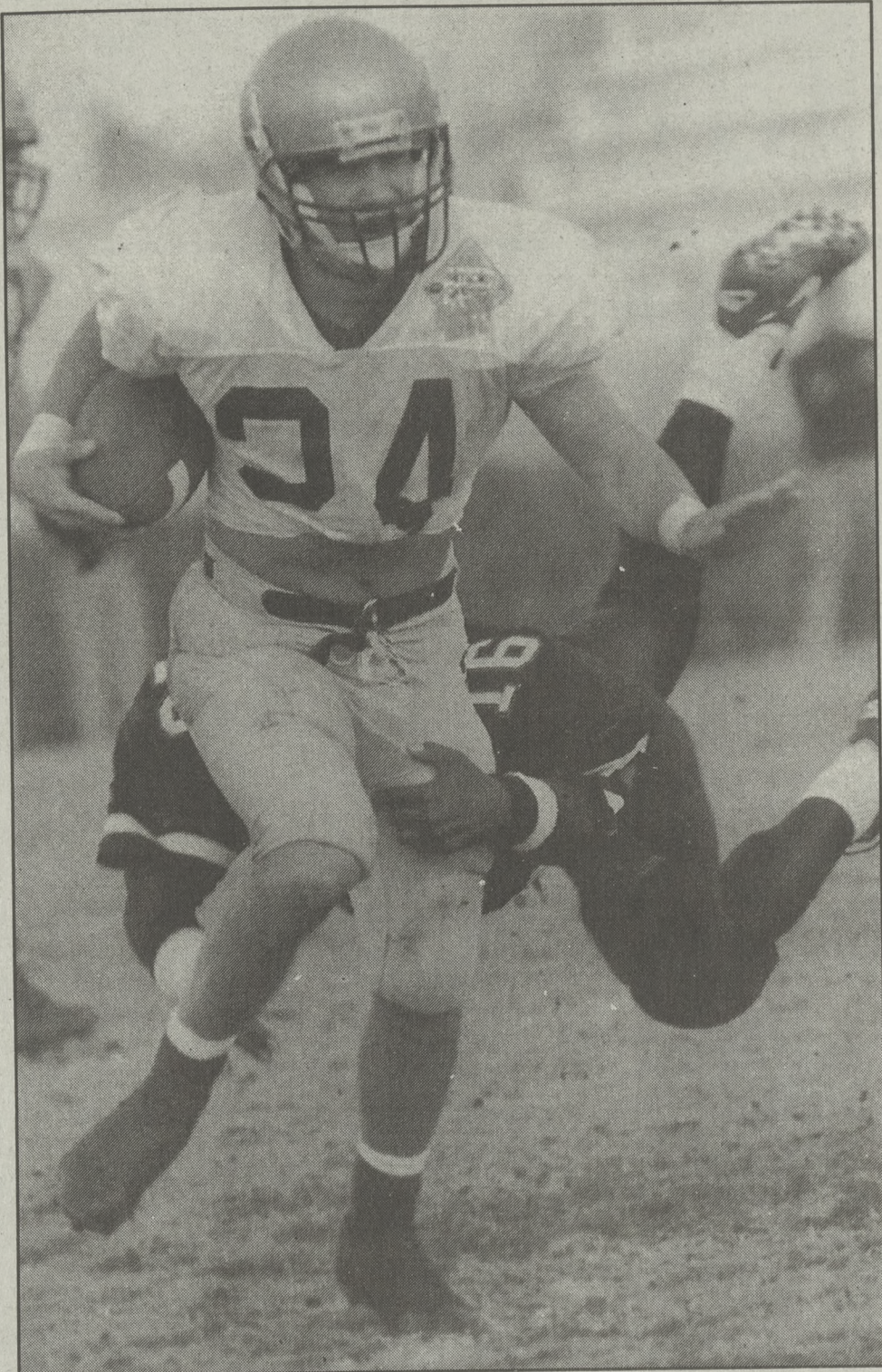


"He tells us his whole life story," says Takeisha Warren (background), "Even if we don't want to hear about it." She recalled the time Nicoletti showed

his pictures of when he fell off his bike. Karen Valera (foreground), on the other hand, likes him because, "He gives us one more day to do our work."

Wide receiver, Brian Comer, fights to break free of a tackle by the Rancho Santiago Don's number 16 Robert Nelson in last September's Orange County Bowl. The Monarchs were victorious with the final score being 36 to 28.

PHOTO BY ROD GOODMAN/VALLEY STAR



Valley Monarch wide receiver moving on to fulfill his goals

By ED WEST
Valley Star Staff Writer

Brian Comer, wide receiver for the Valley Monarchs during the '93 and '94 seasons, will no longer display his talents at Valley. He has transferred to the University of California at Berkeley where he will play with the California Golden Bears. This transfer is his final step toward fulfilling a life-long dream.

Gary Comer, Comer's father, gave him a football at the age of seven and from that time, his world has revolved around the game of football. He advanced through the learning stages of the game, from sand-lot scrimmages through the flag football years of grammar school. He never rode the bench. He played quarterback at Chatsworth High School and in the Pop Warner League he led this team to a record setting seven consecutive championships. In addition to playing quarterback, he also returned kick-offs and was the holder for point after touchdowns (PATs).

Upon enrolling at Valley, the Monarch's Head Coach Jim Fenwick, after appraising Comer's height and weight of five feet 11

inches and 180 pounds, converted him to the position of wide receiver and Comer's career began to orbit. Playing at a new position, in two years he shattered all existing records for pass receptions, yards gained after receptions and touchdowns scored after receptions.

Comer has never been seriously hurt in all the years he has been playing. His abilities and agility in avoiding the bone-jarring tackles that are the lot of every wide receiver say much to his instincts and feel for the game. What he may lack in size is more than amply compensated for by his concentration and determination to catch the ball regardless of the defenders converging upon him.

How far his football career will take him is anyone's guess and Comer is fully aware that his life will go on after he hangs up his helmet and pads. To that end, he is majoring in business administration at Berkeley. Mr. Comer, as proud as he can be about his son's athletic prowess, is equally proud of the way Comer has buckled down to his studies.

"Brian was never an A or B student in grade or high school and was content in just getting by. His every thought in those days cen-

tered around football. He has matured and now realizes that life is more than a game," Mr. Comer said.

Comer's dream, according to his father, is to play in the Rose Bowl game in 1998, hence his selection of Berkeley and the opportunity to play with the Golden Bears. He received offers from universities throughout the country, but wanted to play in the Pacific 10 Conference. This conference is composed of 10 western teams, and the winning team plays host to the victors of the Big 20 Conference at the Rose Bowl.

In five years, Comer hopes to be playing professional ball, but if that is not to be, he envisions himself perfectly happy climbing a corporate ladder in the business world. If professional football is his destiny, he hopes it will be with the Los Angeles Raiders, a team he has rooted for since his earliest days.

Mr. Comer likens Comer to Fred Biletnikoff, Hall of Fame wide receiver of the Oakland Raiders and presently the quarterback coach of the L.A. Raiders who like Comer was neither big or fast but caught everything thrown his way.

Students open their minds and mouths regarding prejudice

"When I see people dressed in certain ways or speaking in certain ways, I will make judgements and adjustments to my behavior. They are not instinctual judgements but are socially ingrained."

Dave Ritterband, Valley student

By SHAWN BUSH
Valley Star Staff Writer

"Sometimes it is natural and even necessary to judge people on first impressions," says Valley student Dave Ritterband when asked if prejudice is still a problem in our society. "However, if judgements are based on broad negative stereotypes, which they often are, it becomes a social problem," he continues.

Interviewing students about their

personal beliefs regarding prejudice creates a tenuous situation. Students may feel compelled to openly express their true thoughts on the subject and at the same time, find themselves not completely able to fulfill this desire. "I do not think people should be so thin-skinned anyway," says Ritterband.

"When I see people dressed in certain ways or speaking in certain ways, I will make judgements and adjustments to my behavior. They are not instinctual judgements but

are socially ingrained," admits Ritterband. How does he handle these moments? "There is not much you can do about it other than feel a little guilty afterward."

Valley College has the distinction of attracting people of varying ethnic backgrounds and beliefs. This combination provides the environment for learning about other people. At the same time, it creates the climate for negative treatment of individuals or groups within the school.

With voters recently voting in favor of proposition 187 which many believe discriminates against minorities and those individuals alien to United States citizenship, the social environment at Valley College and many other schools has been thrust into a familiar round of discussions about prejudice.

Ritterband says, "Everyone is affected but historically the minorities have gotten the worst part of it because these groups did not have a major part in creating this

society which they were forced to live in."

With minorities gaining a larger percentage of the population each year, the argument that their voice is not heard does not shock someone like Ritterband who has definite ideas about the origins of prejudice. "Kids learn most of their stuff from parents. It begins on the first walk in the stroller down the street," says Ritterband "it is one of the reasons I'm going into teaching at the high school level where the

problem seems greatest."

How can individuals widen their mind and make themselves aware of the prejudices they may have acquired in childhood? Ritterband suggests, "I try to know a wide variety of people. My friends range from PhD's to immigrant workers. Society tries to get "multi-cultural" to the point of being divisive and ridiculous. Instead of creating new stereotypes to replace the old ones, we should teach tolerance and personal respect for all people."

Valley supervisor constructs his life from the ground up

"Education is the best key to succeed," Jose Luis Ornelas.

By JO-ANA D'BALCAZAR
Valley Star Staff Writer

"Education, perseverance, and dedication are some of the best qualities to succeed. A positive attitude and self-confidence are a must to accomplish your goals," says Jose Luis Ornelas, supervisor of carpenters and general trades of Valley.

Ornelas has been working with the Los Angeles Community College District for 20 years. In 1974, he started as an assistant carpenter at Los Angeles Trade Technical, while studying welding during his off-hours.

"I enjoy my work because I do several things, such as supervising our department. We have two carpenters, two assistants, one locksmith, and one machinist," Ornelas says.

"When I was applying for the carpenter position, there were 150 applicants. For the Supervisor position there were 12. I knew it was going to be difficult, but I always had self-confidence and pursued my goals," Ornelas says.

In 1979, he transferred to Pierce College as a carpenter and studied

to be a "Locksmith" at the Central Occupational Center. In 1988, he transferred to Valley.

Ornelas, born in Mexico, came to the United States when he was five years old. After his parents passed away, he was raised by his grandmother, Angela Ornelas, in El Paso, Texas.

Ornelas says, "It was my grandmother who encouraged me to study and look for a better future. Unfortunately, she passed away before I graduated from high school."

"She was a role model, even though we were very poor. She told me not to give up on education. There were times when we had to milk a cow to be able to eat," Ornelas says.

He learned carpentry in El Paso with his family, who were mostly professional carpenters. "This is a family tradition. After I graduated from Thomas Jefferson High School, I went to work with my Uncle Tomas Ornelas, who is a great carpenter, and he taught me a lot," Ornelas says.

Ornelas says that he never had any ethnic problems. It was his

experience and education that helped him get the jobs. "I remember the first time I applied for a job as an assistant carpenter. There were about 400 aspirants, and I bet the odds," Ornelas says.

Ornelas came to Los Angeles in 1972 with only \$300, a 1969 Volkswagen, his wife and two children. He was looking for a better health program for his daughter Marissa, who has cerebral palsy.

One of his dreams was to buy a house for his family. He accomplished this in 1979. "I felt so great when I bought my house. I thought of all the sacrifices, and it was worth it because I could give my family a home," Ornelas says.

"They are my priority. I always wanted to give them the best. The only thing I regret is that I couldn't spend enough time with them. I had to work in 3 jobs in order to accomplish my goal," Ornelas says.

"I always encouraged my children to pursue an education and accomplish their goals. Education is the best key to succeed. If I made it, they can make it too," Ornelas says.



Jose Ornelas, supervisor of carpenters and general trades sands a door.

DAVID BALDWIN/VALLEY STAR

Big man on campus speaks

By ROBERT BLECHL
Valley Star Staff Writer

Usually it is the quarterback that gets all the attention. Sometimes, the wide receiver attracts attention with a spectacular catch. Other times the spotlight shines on the kicker after a last-second field goal.

But one of the unsung heroes from the Monarch football team last season plays on the offensive line. His name is Tim Markowitz.

Offensive lineman do not carry the ball. They do not score any touchdowns either. In fact, the only attention they might get in a game is when they commit a penalty or when the defense sacks the quarterback.

"I think most people can play offensive line. It is not a real tough position. You just have to block," said the 285-pound sophomore Markowitz.

"I've been playing football off and on for about eight years," says Markowitz. However, all of his years playing have not been consistent. "I've taken a couple of years off here and there," he says.

Markowitz got involved in sports the way most people get involved in sports. "Your parents

want you to get into something," he says, "Any kind of activity." So he chose football.

Although the Monarchs are finished with their outstanding 1994 season, Markowitz and the team still train consistently.

"With offensive line, it's mainly lifting weights," Markowitz says for keeping in shape off season. It is a four day a week exercise program. "You get Wednesdays and weekends off," he added.

Markowitz explains that he trains an hour and a half to two hours a day. Although most of the training is with weights, he says he also does some running as well.

However, an offensive lineman has the challenge of playing one on one with a defender. "I guess you want to feel your opponent out," says Markowitz. "And once you know how to beat him, you keep doing the same thing."

"I usually try to stay calm," Markowitz said about playing in a game. "Some people like talking. I like to be quiet and just play the game. By staying calm, I think better."

Markowitz is a graduate of Alemany High School in Burbank. He is pursuing a Bachelor of Arts degree in business.

Although Markowitz is planning on transferring to a four-year school, he is not letting it stress him out. "To tell you the truth, it depends on who comes to me," he says. "This is my last semester here. I haven't really thought about it."

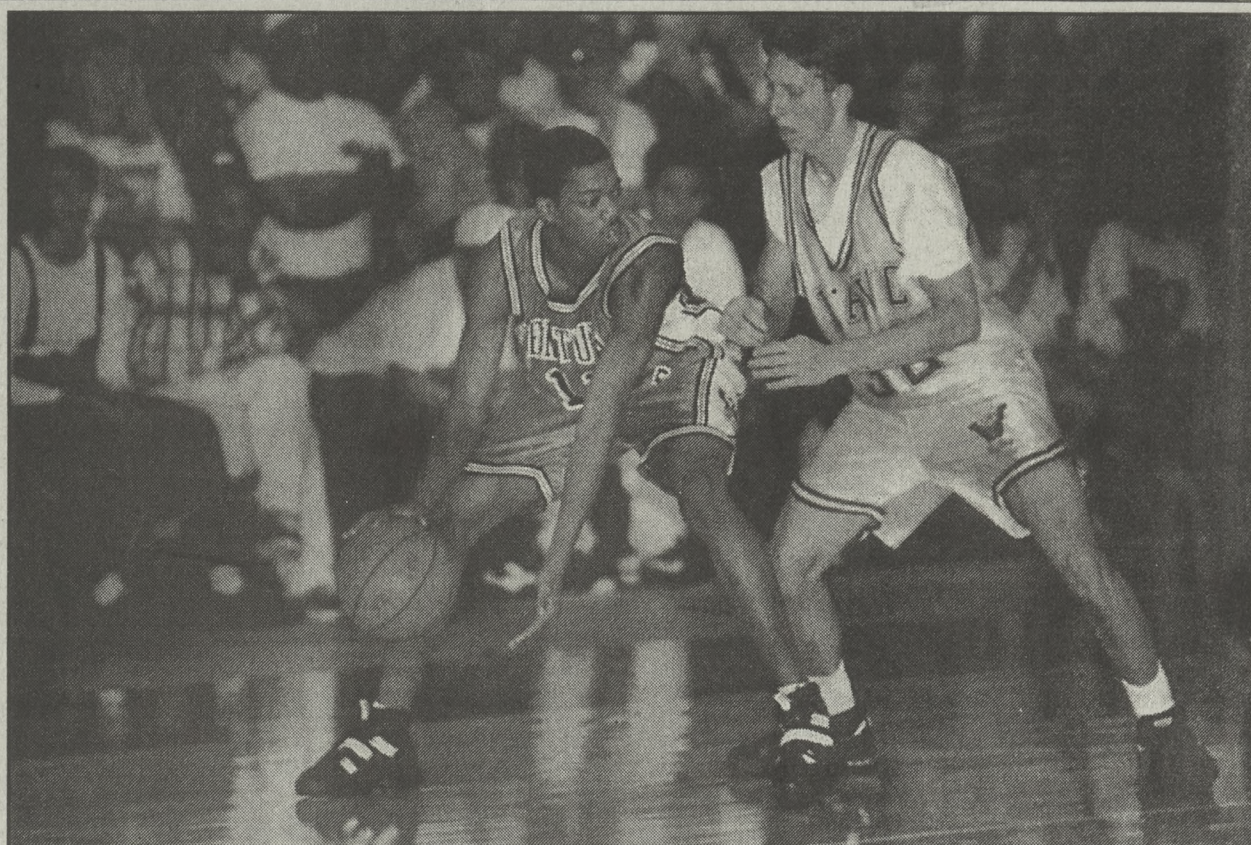
Markowitz says he wants to continue playing the game when he does transfer. However, he does not wish to play professional ball.

Head football coach Jim Fenwick speaks highly of the ability of Markowitz. "Tim is mentally aware of what is going on out there. He knows what needs to be done as far as assignments. He is really helpful."

Fenwick states that Markowitz is what is termed a "smart player" because Markowitz not only understands his own assignment, but also everyone else's around him. "Physically he is real strong,"

says Fenwick. "He has a lot of confidence that no one can bullrush (defensive blitz) on him. His strength gives him confidence. He is a good player," says Fenwick.

Markowitz added, "Besides, the quarterbacks and running backs usually help you out. Plus they buy our lunch for us. That's good."



Valley's Carig Griffin defends against Ventura's player.

ROD GOODMAN/VALLEY STAR

Monarchs spring into action

By S.L. SALAMONE
Valley Star Staff Writer

MEN'S AND WOMEN'S SWIMMING:

Swim team coach William Krauss said this year's team is, "The largest swim team ever."

There are 20 swimmers on the men's team and 18 swimmers on the women's team said Krauss. "The women's team is really strong this year. They have a lot of depth."

Krauss said swimmers to watch this semester are, from the women's team, Shannyn Myers, who won All American for the Butterfly last semester, freshman Andrea Lopena, who won All American for the Breaststroke last semester and Spring Langford, a freshman with "great potential."

From the men's team, the swim-

mers to watch are Raymond Akopyan, who won the State Championships for Butterfly and Individual Medley (all strokes) last semester and Distance Free Styler, Bobby Bodroglieti, who Krauss said, "is a potential California State Champion."

Valley's men's and women's swim teams placed third in the Western State Conference last semester. Santa Monica Relays is the teams' first competition, on Feb. 18 in Santa Monica.

WOMEN'S TRACK:

Women's track has many new faces according to Doris Castaneda, women's track coach. Practice started Jan. 23.

The team will have their first conference meet in Santa Monica on Feb. 16.

BASEBALL:

"We've got a great group of young men this semester," said baseball coach Chris Johnson.

The recent rainstorms didn't set the team back according to Johnson. "Our field takes the water pretty well, so we were out there practicing."

Johnson added, "We're going to play some tough teams and be in tough situations and hopefully it'll toughen us up."

Two returning members to baseball are Jorge Dorado and starting pitcher Kevin Szymanski. "These guys were good for us all winter so we're expecting more of the same this season."

Baseball's second game of the Western State Conference Invitational will be played at Valley against Los Angeles Harbor College at 10 a.m. on Saturday.

Upcoming Sports Schedule For Spring 1995

2/10 Softball at Citrus 3:00.
2/11 Women's Basketball vs. Bakersfield 5:00.
Men's Basketball vs. Bakersfield 7:00.
Men's and Women's Track @ Cal State Northridge (Northridge Allcomers Meet) 9:00 a.m.
2/11-12 Men's Baseball Western State Conference Invitational Time TBA.

2/13 Women's Softball at East LA 3:00.
2/14 Women's Softball at El Camino 3:00. Men's Baseball at Pasadena 2:00.
2/15 Women's Softball vs. Rio Hondo 3:30.
2/16 Men's Baseball vs. Pasadena 2:00. Men's and Women's Track @ Santa Monica (Valley, Santa Monica, Cuesta, Hancock)

2:00.
2/17 Women's Softball vs. Saddleback 3:00.
2/18 Men's and Women's Swimming Santa Monica Relays 11:00
2/20 Women's Softball vs. Citrus 3:30.
2/21 Men's Baseball at Fullerton 2:00.
2/22 Women's Softball vs. Irvine Valley 3:30.

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